

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 are pending and are amended herein. Accordingly, claims 1-3 will remain pending after entry of this amendment.

Support for the amendments here is found throughout the application as originally filed. No new matter is added.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 7,072,792 to Freifeld (hereinafter "Freifeld") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,088,955 to Ishimoto (hereinafter "Ishimoto"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Currently amended claims 1 and 3 recite an extension unit for having a unit main body and a signal processing device detachably connected to the unit main body. The signal processing device includes a processor that executes "determined output processing" based on output data included in an instruction signal input from the unit main body.

As admitted at page 4 of the Office Action, neither Freifeld nor Ishimoto, alone or in combination, teach or suggest a signal processing device detachably connected to the unit main body.

In response to the Office Action's assertion that "such a modification would have been considered a mere design consideration," Applicants note that the detachability of the signal processing device allows for replacement of the signal processing device and selection of a particular signal processing device best suited for a particular situation. Moreover, a variety of outputs can be produced within the need to redesign the extension unit.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Freifeld in view of Ishimoto.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance. If a telephone conversation with Applicants' representatives would be helpful to resolve any further issues and/or expedite further prosecution of the application, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Fee Authorization

Applicants believe that no fees are due for the submission of this Response. If additional fees are required, the Director is authorized to charge any fees associated with this submission to our Deposit Account, No. 04-1105, Reference 86290(308246). Any overpayment should be credited to said Deposit Account.

Dated: June 2, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

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